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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY Austria REPORTTOPIC Soviet Troops in Kosterneburg and Vienna XEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE PREPARED 10 February 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 15 January 1955, individual officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets with artillery insignia left the former Pionier Kaserne in Klosterneuburg (O 49/S 30). The main gate of the kaserne was guarded by a sentry who wore black-bordered red epaulets. Van-like motor vehicle with a driver wearing red-bordered black epaulets, which came from the direction of Vienna, entered the installation. Truck with a driver wearing black-bordered black epaulets, which carried snow and a snow-sweeping detail left the northwestern gate of the installation which was guarded by a sentry who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The men of the sweeping detail wore black-bordered black and black-bordered red epaulets and were led by an officer wearing black-bordered red epaulets. All shedroofs in the area of the former Pionier Museum which was guarded by a sentry wearing a fur coat were empty. There was no activity. An aiming device representing a moving air target was installed between two smokestacks. The troops were apparently still absent from the station area as was observed in the summer of 1954. they had left for the training grounds at the beginning of the year. 1

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2. On 15 January 1955, truck occupied by soldiers wearing black-bordered red and red-bordered black epaulets was parked in front of the Trost Kaserne in Vienna. The kaserne was guarded by a sentry who wore black-bordered red epaulets. After being occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets who came from the installation, the truck left toward Favoriten Strasse. Two armored half-track vehicles drivers of which wore red-bordered black epaulets, left the Trost Kaserne. The vehicles had armored side and back walls, canvas roofs and projecting heavy bumpers. 50X1-HUM
Jeep and truck with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed at the installation. Almost 100 soldiers

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received infantry training on the training ground south of the Trost Kaserne. Two soldiers who were supervised by an instructor practiced the emplacing of an air-cooled heavy machine gun on a wheeled carriage which was presumably the 1943 model. Gun fire was heard from the direction of the target range in the area of the training ground from where, after a while, an armored full-track vehicle emerged. Due to the large distance the vehicle could not be identified as a tank or SP gun. Two T-34/85 tanks and 3 trucks were observed in the area of the repair shop at 109 to 111 Trost Strasse. About 25 motor vehicles which were parked at the garage at 83 Pernerstorfer Gasse included trucks

Other motor vehicles observed at the installation included truck with a driver wearing black-bordered red epaulets and jeep and van-like motor vehicle with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. 2

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1. Comment. The 46th Gds Mech Regt and the 8th Gds Engr Bn are stationed at Klosterneuburg. The motor vehicles and the equipment of these units are stored in the former Pionier Museum. In view of previous information, it appears unusual that the entire regiment, possibly also the engineer battalion, have moved to the training grounds in January. A short move of the several component units of the regiment to the troop training grounds for firing practices in January, however, corresponds to the Soviet training policy observed in East Germany.

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2. Comment. The 44th Gds Mech Regt is stationed at the Trost Kaserne. It is believed that the armored half-track vehicles mentioned in the present report are model US-M 3 half-track armored personnel carriers. The two T-34/85 tanks belong to the 127th Tank Bn which is subordinate to the 44th Gds Mech Regt. The motor-vehicle observed at the garage at 83 Pernerstorfer Gasse belong to the 13th Gds Mech Div. The motor vehicles observed at the Trost Kaserne belong to the Central Group of Forces in Vienna and Baden.

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